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**TUESDAY 21 AUGUST**

**FILM HOUSE: 7.00**

**JAPANESE EVENT**

# **AH, MY VOICELESS FRIENDS**

## **(AH, KOENAKI-TOMO)** ✓

Japan. Exec. Prod.: Shigemi Sugisaki, Enzaburo Honda, Yukio Takashima. Dir.: Tadashi Imai. Screenplay: Naoyuki Suzuki from original story by Yoriyoshi Arima. Photo: Hiroshi Dowaki. Mus.: Hitoshi Omuro. Cast: Kiyoshi Atsumi, Koji Matsumoto, Kazuo Kitamura, Mayumi Ogawa, Chieko Baisho, Katsutoshi, Atarashi etc.

During World War II, a soldier, Tamiji, falls ill just before his squadron is sent to the front. He is hospitalised and about to be sent home, so his fellow-soldiers entrust him with letters to their wives, lovers or parents before departing for action. The entire squadron is annihilated, and Tamiji dedicates the next eight years of his life to delivering the letters. The addressees prove to be a bizarre and often tragic lot: a jailed war-criminal, a female corpse-cleaner, a whore with whom Tamiji has an affair before he learns she is the wife of his dead friend, a woman who has gone mad, a student who has been executed for homicide, and many others, who are either deceased, untraceable, or hostile to the idea of receiving the letters. Finally, in the course of his deliveries, he meets a fellow-soldier who was presumed dead, but actually escaped alive. The man laughs at him for devoting so much time to delivering the messages. Forget it, buddy, he tells him. Burn the letters. After so many years they bring nothing but trouble.